



Death on a Desert Hillside

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In the foothills of the desert mountains west of Smoke Tree, someone has murdered Caleb and Eunice Clovis. The victims were impoverished squatters living a subsistence life in a lean-to made of discarded lumber and cast off building materials. Who would want to kill them? And why? There seems to be no motive for the crime.

Lieutenant Carlos Caballo, known throughout the Lower Colorado River Basin simply as “Horse,” is charged with solving the crime. A crime that might not have been discovered for months except for a minor twist of fate.

As the commander of the Smoke Tree Substation of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, Horse has other issues to deal with at the same time: a town divided by Highway 66 into haves and have-nots, where prejudice and anger simmer just beneath the surface; an incompetent and corrupt local police department; local politics; cattle rusting in the river bottom north of Smoke Tree; and the possibility his best young deputy is going to ask for a transfer.

With the help of his friend Chemehuevi Joe, a mysterious, self-sufficient, and deadly Native American, Horse sets off on the trail of a killer who is not done killing in this fourth book of the Smoke Tree Series.

Death on a Desert Hillside Details

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From Reader Review Death on a Desert Hillside for online ebook

Bill Alliston says

SATISFYING, SIMPLE and a CAN'T-PUT-DOWN READ

Simple life mystery in a rural town, written without a need to over-indulge in dramatic twists and turns but achieving it anyway. Easily identifiable themes of love and loyalty, while tackling race and bigotry issues presented by the stereotyping ignorant minds fearing a change from what they know. Will be checking out all of Gary's books hoping to find the same interest this book held for me.

Chris Cohenour says

A very good book, and series.

I'm not the erudite, critical type reader, this is my first review since school, but I am an avid reader. Having read some of Mr. George's books some time ago, I was happy to find this book on Amazon. Like the others I had read, I had a hard time putting it down and enjoyed it a great deal. If you like crime dramas and are attracted to the outdoors, you can't go wrong reading any of this series.

Cheri Ramirez says

Snake shot of small town life in the '60's.

Small town life with all its warts and prejudices displayed in an intricately woven murder mystery set in rural California. Strong character development and likeable protagonist. You care what happens, this story pulls you into the lives of the characters. I am reading the entire series- thank you to the author.

maria says

Must read

If you want a good story this is it. Looking forward to next book. Wish horse was a real guy.

Baobab says

I enjoyed reading this mystery a good deal. The characters are straight forward and fit well into the arc of the author's other books in the series. I especially enjoy the sense of the desert environment that pervades the book. I highly recommend the book, and look forward to reading more of the author's novels as they become available.

Mark Auman says**Excellent**

One of. Those " couldn't put it down reads. "

It is a simple story but the people who lived it were brought to life so well that it just grabs you.

I will read the rest of them.

Gene Sikora says**George just keeps getting better**

George's "Horse" series is better with each book. This is not just a Southwest law man series, but an uncommon set of characters and the age old battle of the good in mankind vs. true evil. Horse has a unique view of his world. You can't help but admire -- if not just love -- Willie, with his damaged brain and body, wait patiently for the cruel to meet their match, and see the raw beauty that is the desert

Dianne Peace says**Violence in a beautiful place**

This whole story lives in a brilliantly described environment, seen through the eyes of good people who love the extremes of the desert. The storylines run parallel through this desert with awful violence, gender love and friendships, loyalty and honor. Really good read.

tina m gervasio quisito says**Another Gem; so much more than a murder mystery**

Gary George writing style is fabulously descriptive, his attention to environmental background transports one to the Mojave where one can visualise the surrounding mountains ranges and hear the bird calls and hum of cicadas, the blowing wind. Add the social commentary that is compassionate but never preachy and one is left with novels that are in the league with Michener, and Fitzgerald.

Krista says

I received this book in a Goodreads giveaway. The story was compelling and there was a wonderful narrative throughout, adding depth to the characters, and beautiful descriptions of the town and the surrounding area. The characters were not one-dimensional, but were well developed and there were other story lines that

helped illustrate the whole area where the events take place. I highly recommend this book.

Tracey S Choat says

Read the whole series! Great stories!

I can't express how much I enjoyed reading this series. This gifted author takes the reader away from their busy world and transports them to another time. I can see the sun going down on the mountains, feel the desert heat on my skin, taste the dust in my mouth. I cared about the characters, I thought about them well after the book ended. I hope there are more books in this series. Well done Mr. George.

Marissa says

Goodreads Kindle Copy Win

A desert hillside turns deadly as two bodies are found. Who could want them dead as they were just squatters living in a lean to?

The local sheriff and deputy job is to find the truth as there seems to be no motive. With the aid of a mysterious Native America they will seek out justice.

A quick paced book in this continuing series.

Wanda says

Received this from the Goodreads Giveaways.

The story is set in the early 60's in a small town in the Mojave desert. The descriptions of the surrounding areas are amazing. Really brings to life the desert both the good and bad. Felt like I was there. Was interesting to see how crimes were solved in an age that doesn't have all the technical capabilities that we have now.

The characters were well developed and you really get attached to the "good guys" and rooting for them to catch the "bad guys". The sheriff is a decent man and is very concerned about those around him. He treats people with respect and does everything he can to help others. The story also describes some situations that are still current now such as prejudice and greed.

Haven't read the two prior books in this series but will now.

Ann Copeland says

What a great series

Readers can fall in love with the main characters of these books. One hopes that he or she will get to know someone like the sheriff or the deputy or the solid true blue teen who might just restore your faith in humans. Plus everything you need to know about the California desert.

Gloria Zak says

Heavens, I like this author.

First, thank you to the author as I received this ebook through the Goodreads giveaway program. It is the second book that I have had the privilege of reading in this series.

The story is strong and relevant to today's issues. Scenes are so beautifully written that you can imagine standing there, in the desert, and seeing the scenery for yourself. As written, the desert is majestic in its beauty and it makes me want to visit.

The characters are richly developed and you could readily visualize these small town characters in your everyday life.

Good overcomes evil, in every twist of this story, as it should. And Horse is the hero, as it should be. I keep visualizing these books as great western movies for today. Come on Hollywood, stop the remakes and look right here for a great movie.
